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## U.S. technology leaks

# *Export probbers fault agency*

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Department of Commerce unit charged with enforcing export controls on sensitive technology sought by the Soviet bloc was roundly criticized Wednesday by Senate investigators, who called for the Customs Service to step in.

Fred Asselin, a staff investigator for the Governmental Affairs Investigations Subcommittee, said the Commerce Department's Compliance Division is "an understaffed and poorly equipped and, in certain instances, undertrained and unqualified investigative and intelligence unit."

He said months of investigation by the subcommittee's minority staff had concluded the unit should be abolished and its functions transferred to the U.S. Customs Service.

"The national security implications of enforcement of the Export Administration Act are too important to be entrusted any longer to the Commerce Department as presently organized," Asselin told the panel.

The subcommittee is holding hearings on leakage of military technology to the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies.

ALSO APPEARING before the panel was Jack Vorona, a Defense Intelligence

Agency official, who said the Soviets have been mounting a "deliberate, massive and longstanding effort . . . to acquire Western technologies for direct incorporation into their military and defense-related industry."

This Soviet effort, he said, "enjoys very high priority, is centrally directed, specifically targeted and employs every collection means imaginable."

Vorona contended that as a result, the Soviets "have derived significant military gains . . . particularly in the areas of computers, microelectronics, signal processing, manufacturing, communications, guidance and navigation, structural materials, radars and sensors of various types."

The U.S. government frequently makes the Soviets' work easier, he said, by openly publishing detailed technical data on military programs.

AS AN EXAMPLE, Vorona said that in 1979 two officials from the Soviet Embassy in Washington went to the public library in Milan, Tenn., to photocopy pages from an environmental impact statement on file there concerning the construction of a plant to manufacture military explosives.

A subsequent investigation showed "the

document contained a wealth of technical detail which, when combined with already published material, would allow them to duplicate the entire manufacturing process," said Vorona, the Defense Intelligence Agency's assistant vice director for scientific and technical intelligence.

He said the Soviets appeared to be focusing heavily on "small- and medium-size firms and research centers that develop advanced component technology and designs." This area amounts to "a specially enticing target because it is where many of the emerging technologies are first discovered," Vorona testified.

ASSELIN SUBMITTED to the subcommittee an 80-page statement detailing what he described as serious weaknesses of the Commerce Department Compliance Division.

He said the division's inspections branch totals only six inspectors—five of whom are regularly stationed at Kennedy International Airport in New York City—and its investigations branch has about eight agents.

Unlike Customs Service personnel, Asselin said, Commerce inspectors, investigators and special agents lack authority to search and seize cargo, to make arrests or to carry firearms.